

Senate Study Bill 3093 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON DANIELSON)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act lowering the minimum age at which a person may register
2 to vote.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 48A.5, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code
2 2011, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. Be at least eighteen years of age. Completed
4 registration forms shall be accepted from registrants who are
5 at least ~~seventeen and one-half~~ sixteen years of age; ~~however.~~
6 However, the registration shall not be effective until the
7 registrant reaches the age of eighteen. The commissioner of
8 registration shall ensure that the birth date shown on the
9 registration form is at least ~~seventeen and one-half~~ sixteen
10 years earlier than the date the registration is processed. A
11 registrant who ~~is at least seventeen and one-half years of age~~
12 ~~and who~~ will be eighteen by the date of a pending election is
13 a registered voter for the pending election for purposes of
14 chapter 53.

15 Sec. 2. Section 48A.14, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
16 2011, is amended to read as follows:

17 b. The challenged registrant is less than ~~seventeen and~~
18 ~~one-half~~ sixteen years of age.

19 Sec. 3. Section 48A.23, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended
20 to read as follows:

21 1. At least twice during each school year, the board of
22 directors of each school district operating a high school and
23 the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school
24 shall offer the opportunity to register to vote to each student
25 who is at least ~~seventeen and one-half~~ sixteen years of age.

26 Sec. 4. Section 48A.26, subsection 9, Code 2011, is amended
27 to read as follows:

28 9. When a person who is at least ~~seventeen and one-half~~
29 sixteen years of age but less than eighteen years of age
30 registers to vote, the commissioner shall maintain a record of
31 the registration so as to clearly indicate that it will not
32 take effect until the registrant's eighteenth birthday and that
33 the person is registered and qualifies to vote at any election
34 held on or after that date.

35 Sec. 5. Section 48A.31, Code 2011, is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 **48A.31 Deceased persons record.**

3 The state registrar of vital statistics shall transmit
4 or cause to be transmitted to the state registrar of voters,
5 once each calendar quarter, a certified list of all persons
6 ~~seventeen and one-half~~ sixteen years of age and older in
7 the state whose deaths have been reported to the bureau of
8 vital records of the Iowa department of public health since
9 the previous list of decedents was certified to the state
10 registrar of voters. The list shall be submitted according
11 to the specifications of the state registrar of voters. The
12 commissioner shall, in the month following the end of a
13 calendar quarter, run the statewide voter registration system's
14 matching program to determine whether a listed decedent was
15 registered to vote in the county and shall immediately cancel
16 the registration of any person named on the list of decedents.

17 Sec. 6. Section 280.9A, subsection 3, Code 2011, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 3. At least twice during each school year, the board of
20 directors of each local public school district operating a
21 high school and the authorities in charge of each accredited
22 nonpublic school operating a high school shall offer the
23 opportunity to register to vote to each student who is at least
24 ~~seventeen and one-half~~ sixteen years of age, as required by
25 section 48A.23.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill lowers the minimum age at which a person may
28 register to vote.

29 The bill requires that the county commissioner of
30 registration accept completed voter registration forms from
31 registrants who are at least 16 years of age. Current law
32 requires the county commissioner of registration to accept such
33 forms from registrants who are at least 17 and one-half years
34 of age.